Memo: To Dick Bernabei
From: Gary Schoener
Date: 6/1/69

Subject: Don Olson's letter to me of May 28, 1969, references to your work

"The enclosures from Dick Bernabei were interesting and seem to underscore the principle that everything conceivable has been studied in detail by somebody. His explanation seems to resolve many major questions about the dent on 543. The three sets of spurious marks are still a bit of a puzzle, of course. I am enclosing a copy of a letter from Joe Nicol, a friend of my professor Turner. Nicol did a good deal of the FBI-backup work on the bullets and cartridges. I asked him some questions about the dent and the three marks, etc.; as you can see, he cannot be of much help, however. Letters like that one tend to weaken my confidence in the forensic experts. Turner says, nevertheless, that if Nicol identified one of the Tippit bullets as coming from Oswald's revolver (for example), you can count on it. Turner says Nicol will be reasonable in his approach to identification, while the FBI will wait to be 200% sure.

"I can think of no destructive criticism of Dick's mimeographs; they seem very sound. The only trivial extension which now occurs to me relates to the location of the shells at the window. If 543 alone was ejected hard enough to dent the mouth, then we would expect one shell to have been thrown out farther than the other two, and to have fallen farther from the window. This explains that existing discrepancy, although it would certainly help if the Dallas Police had kept the shells separate.

"The only reference to the dents that I know of is two lines at 4H255, which indicate that the Commission lawyers (or, at least Belin) knew of the dent by April 22, 1964. Of course, Nicol and Cunningham had already testified on April 1, 1964. Frazier had already introduced 557 on March 31, 1964. Eisenberg examined the three ballistics experts, and it is possible that the right hand of the Commission didn't know what the left hand was doing.

Attached: Nicol's letter to Turner